

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAIGON 15489 280749Z

13

ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 PRS-01 PM-03 DODE-00 AID-10 RSR-01

OMB-01 /065 W

----- 069388

R 280702Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6478

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 15489

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, MILI, VS

SUBJECT: MR 2 SITREP, AUG 27

FOLLOWING MSG REC FROM AMCONSUL NHA TRANG ON AUG 27 ACTION
EMBASSY SAIGON INFO USDAO SAIGON USSAG NKP REPEATED FOR
YOUR INFO:

C O N F I D E N T I A L NHA TRANG 0795

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT MILI VS

SUBJECT: MR 2 SITREP, AUG 27

1. SECURITY SITUATION: IN MR 2, THE LEVEL OF HOSTILITIES OVER
THE PAST 72 HOURS REMAINED HIGH. THERE WERE 58 INCIDENTS REPORTED,
AND THESE WERE CONCENTRATED IN BINH DINH (25), KONTUM (18) AND
PLEIKU (6). MOST WERE REPORTED AS ENEMY-INITIATED ATTACKS BY FIRE.
CASUALTY FIGURES INCREASED FOR ALL BUT RVNAF DEAD: VC/NVA 96 KIA,
2 CAPTURED; VNVAF: 5 KIA, 68 WIA AND 3 MIA. RVNAF REPORTED
CAPTURING 10 INDIVIDUAL AND 5 CREW-SERVED WEAPONS. AIR STRIKES
CONTINUED TO BE HEAVY, WITH 32 ON AUG 24, 23 ON AUG 25 AND 42 ON
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PAGE 02 SAIGON 15489 280749Z

AUG 26. THEY WERE CONCENTRATED IN BINH DINH (54) AND KONTUM (37).

2. 56 OF THE TOTAL 96 ENEMY KIA WERE REPORTEDLY KILLED IN AN ENGAGEMENT INVOLVING THE 3RD CO., 4TH BN, 45TH REGT 8 KM WEST OF KONTUM CITY (ZA 159 917) ON AUG 26. WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO GET VERIFICATION AND FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THIS STATISTIC AND THE ENGAGEMENT ITSELF.

3. DURING THE PAST WEEK, THE HIGH LEVEL OF MILITARY ACTIVITY CHARACTERISTIC OF MOST OF AUGUST HAS BEEN SUSTAINED. THE PATTERN OF CONFLICT IN BINH DINH AND KONTUM--WHERE MOST OF THE FIGHTING TAKES PLACE--WILL LIKELY CONTINUE TO PRODUCE ENGAGEMENTS AND CASUALTIES. IN BINH DINH, AGGRESSIVE GVN CLEARING OPERATIONS CONTINUE, WITH MORE PLANNED. THE 3RD NVA DIVISION, WHICH WE UNDERSTAND HAS BEEN UNDER STRENGTH, IS BEING REINFORCED (SEE NHA TRANG 0778), AND THIS MAY STIFFEN THEIR RESISTANCE TO RVNAF OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS. IN KONTUM, THE NEW STRATEGY TO RETAKE TRUNG NGHIA AND POLEI KRONG (SEE NHA TRANG 0793), WHILE MORE PROMISING THAN THE OLD, IS LIKELY TO BE VIGOROUSLY OPPOSED, AND IT PROBABLY WILL BE SEVERAL WEEKS BEFORE MAJOR PROGRESS CAN BE EXPECTED. THE ENEMY REMAINS IN AN ADVANTAGEOUS POSITION, ABLE TO ROTATE AND RESUPPLY ITS UNITS AT THE FRONT WITH IMPUNITY. THUS, WHILE WE DO NOT BELIEVE THESE HOSTILITIES ARE READY TO ESCALATE SHARPLY, THEY ARE LIKELY TO CONTINUE AT A HIGH LEVEL FOR SOME TIME TO COME.

4. ELECTION REPORT FOLLOWS SEPTTEL. COOK

MARTIN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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